United Nations A/54/599

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 10

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 109, entitled "Advancement of women", at its 7th to 12th meetings , from 11 to 14 October 1999, and took action on the item at its 41st meeting, on 10 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/54/SR.7-12 and 41).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (A/54/264);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" on its second session and resumed second session (A/54/354);

(c) Letter dated 2 June 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/124);

(d) Letter dated 21 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/387);

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(e) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration and the Ministerial Statement on the South Summit, adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 1999 (A/54/432);

(f) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 11 October, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.3/54/SR.7).

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/54/SR.7).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.54

6. At the 41st meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the Chairperson, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action" (A/C.3/54/L.54), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

7. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Ecuador orally revised the second preambular paragraph, which read:

> "*Also recalling* its resolutions 54/4 of 6 October 1999, 53/116, 53/117 and 53/118 of 9 December 1998, and 52/97 of 12 December 1997,

to read:

> "*Also recalling* its resolutions 52/93 and 52/97 of 12 December 1997, 53/116, 53/117 and 53/118 of 9 December 1998 and 54/4 of 6 October 1999".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.54, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.55

9. At its 41st meeting, on 10 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (A/C.3/54/L.55), which had been recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.55 without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

11. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/120 of 9 December 1998, in which it decided to convene a high-level plenary review as a special session of the General Assembly, which will take place from 5 to 9 June 2000, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Also recalling its resolutions 52/93 and 52/97 of 12 December 1997, 53/116, 53/117 and 53/118 of 9 December 1998 and 54/4 of 6 October 1999,

Stressing the importance of the special session and the need for strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels towards achieving equality between women and men, and, in this regard, reaffirming that the full implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] requires further action by all,

Reaffirming its decision that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Platform for Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration[2] and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and further reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;[3]

2. *Commends* the work of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] A/54/264

3. *Takes note* of the ministerial communiqué adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1999 on the theme "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women",[4] as well as Council resolution 1999/55 of 30 July 1999 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations as well as by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society towards the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and the Platform for Action,[1] and calls upon them to implement effectively all the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action by promoting the empowerment of women at all levels and their full participation in all spheres of society through, *inter alia*, an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels;

5. *Welcomes* the replies from Governments to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Platform for Action,[5] and once again invites Governments that have not yet done so to submit national evaluations of the implementation of the Platform for Action, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/50 of 29 July 1999;

6. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

7. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

8. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

9. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to allocate adequate resources for the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age for undertaking gender impact analysis and measuring progress in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

11. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, including the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to continue their active involvement in the preparations for the special session and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices, obstacles encountered and a vision for the future to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and address new and emerging trends;

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[4] A/54/3, chap. III, para. 23. To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

[5] See A/54/264, para. 49.

12. *Welcomes* the initiatives and activities of all United Nations regional commissions and other intergovernmental organizations in support of the preparations for the special session;

13. *Reiterates* that participation in the special session should be at a high political level;

14. *Invites* Member States to include representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women in their delegations to the preparatory committee and the special session;

15. *Reiterates* the decision that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, may participate in the special session without creating a precedent for future sessions of the General Assembly;

16. *Encourages* Member States to include relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations and representatives of women's organizations, in their national preparatory processes as well as in their delegations to the preparatory committee and the special session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the special session;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

Draft resolution II
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/120 of 9 December 1998 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1999/50 of 29 July 1999,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action,[6] and on the framework for further actions and initiatives that might be considered during the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7]

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action by the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,[8]

[6] E/CN.6/1999/PC/3.

[7] E/CN.6/1999/PC/2.

[8] E/CN.6/1999/PC/4, annex.

1. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments that have not yet done so to prepare national action plans and reports on the implementation of the Platform for Action[9] of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and underlines the importance of involving relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations;

2. *Invites* Member States, in preparing implementation plans and reports and responding to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General,[10] to report on good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, the use of qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress, and, wherever possible, on key challenges remaining in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action and obstacles encountered;

3. *Encourages* all the regional commissions and other intergovernmental regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", *inter alia*, through holding preparatory meetings to ensure a regional perspective on implementation and on further actions and initiatives, as well as on a vision for gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century, and to make their reports available in 2000 to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory committee;

4. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, including the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to be involved actively in preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices, obstacles encountered and a vision for the future to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and to address new and emerging trends;

5. *Decides* that the special session shall have a plenary and an ad hoc committee of the whole;

6. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Platform for Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

7. *Decides* that the provisional agenda shall include the following items:

(a) Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action;

(b) Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in time for the next session of the preparatory committee in 2000, comprehensive reports on progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action nationally, regionally and internationally, taking into account all relevant information and inputs available to the United Nations system on the following:

(a) A review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action based on, *inter alia*, national action plans, reports of the States parties to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention, replies of Member States to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General,[10] statements made by delegations at relevant forums of the United Nations, reports of regional commissions and

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] See A/54/264, para. 49.

other entities of the United Nations system and follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

(b) Good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, examples of the use of any qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress, successful strategies and promising initiatives for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

(c) Obstacles encountered and strategies for overcoming them;

(d) Further actions and initiatives, within the overall goals of gender equality, development and peace, to accelerate implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action beyond 2000, recognizing the need for analytical tools and strategies for implementation, taking into account inputs, as well as comments of Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on further actions and initiatives, and, in this regard, invites Member States to provide inputs and comments thereon;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available all necessary documentation in a timely manner for the special session, keeping in mind General Assembly resolutions 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/120 of 9 December 1996;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to hold discussions with relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, in the exchange of views for the review and appraisal process on the implementation of the Platform for Action, including, wherever available, the use of electronic networking;

11. *Urges* Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the special session at a high political level;

12. *Confirms* that the special session will be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;[11]

13. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity of observer that applied to their participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women;

14. *Encourages* Member States to include relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations and representatives of women's organizations, in their national preparatory processes as well as in their delegations to the preparatory committee and the special session;

15. *Emphasizes* the important role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Platform for Action and the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions to the special session;

16. *Decides* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, may participate in the special session without creating a precedent for future sessions of the General Assembly;[11]

17. *Also decides* to defer consideration of all the modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session until the next session of the preparatory committee;

[11] See resolution 52/100, para. 46.

18. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory committee, to convene informal open-ended consultations, as appropriate, to consider preparations for the special session;

19. *Recommends* that the major portion of the three weeks scheduled for the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2000 be allocated to the Commission acting as preparatory committee for the special session.